

KAMP KANAWANA '71

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MONTREAL

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION



## KAMP KANAWANA '71

Our campers had a good summer. It was one that was packed full of fun, excitement, making new friends, growing into young men and women, learning new skills and being 'camp-sick' (the opposite of homesick). We were fortunate to have a large percentage of last year's staff join us again this season. Their knowledge of Kanawana and their previous experiences added immensely to the success of our camping season.

Our program areas functioned smoothly and saw all campers involved in a variety of programs to an extent of meeting their pre-determined needs. 'All-camp' programs showed high camper spirit and participation without placing heavy emphasis on the 'one-to-one' competition.

Bridge building, the clearing of new and old trails, sounding the lake were only a few of the many constructive activities the staff and campers identified and did as group projects.

Fun was a great part of all our programs and everyone enjoyed themselves at campfires, skit nights, etc. Several trips returned to camp and sang songs that they made up about their trip and its events. It was a good summer.

To be more specific here about what took place at camp this past summer would take more time and space than is presently available. I feel that it would also be an exercise in writing (a skill which does not come easy to me) and of little use for the coming summer.

I would like to take the opportunity here to reflect on what I have learned during my all too short, two years as Director and focus this report on recommendations for '72.

I feel that I have gained immensely from those who were involved in planning over the winter period and those who implemented the plans during the summer. I hope that this report does justice to all your tireless efforts and long well spent hours of work.

I have felt for sometime now that there was something lacking at Kanawana and only recently have been able to formulate in my mind what it was. It is not that something is missing but that too much is involved.

We began as a tripping camp and since then have continued to add to it. We are now at the extreme where we must concentrate on all the 'other' program areas to the decline of our tripping quality.

Let me expand on this for a moment. Our Hike and Trip Committee found several areas of weakness (i.e. food portions per camper per trip) where they designed a better system by which we functioned this year. This should be the continued focus. Our staff are concerned about program schedules (i.e. campers go riding because they identified this as an interest), that they have short duration trips. A lack of equipment - our canoes are used for boating and trips and there are not enough available to operate a quality tripping program of trips 7-10 days in duration holding our campers to camp, etc.

My premise is that we have the experience, knowledge and understanding to operate the best tripping (i.e. this also includes hikes) camp in Quebec if not in Canada. I feel, therefore, that if we accept this premise that we set our focus in this direction and eliminate all other areas.

Our camp is well known as a person centered camp. Our focus remains the same. But the increase of program areas (i.e. bikes, horses, etc.) gives us the dimension of a program scheduled camp where the campers fit the schedule. We all know what interpersonal relations, awareness of self, others and appreciation of nature can take place on a trip. This is what I feel our campers are really looking for. A meaningful experience and identity they receive with the closeness of a trip. An opportunity to get away from schedules and to be themselves.

Stated very simply my major recommendations for Kanawana '72 are as follows:

1. Kanawana program should focus specifically on hikes and canoe trips.
  - this would reduce budget expenses by cutting back on all other program staff and equipment.
  - all meals would be cooked out - just as when they are on their trip.
2. Kanawana should move this aspect of its operation 50-100 miles further north to a smaller base camp site.
  - buildings and program areas are no longer needed. The hiking areas around St. Sauveur are rapidly disappearing and our canoe trips are venturing this far north at the present moment.
3. The age for campers should be raised to at least ten years of age (if not higher).
  - day camps linked with us could offer a challenging program for the younger child - who is already sought after by sports teams, and other specialized programs.
4. Kanawana's present property to be used for experimental programs or rentals.
  - our budget surplus should come from rentals, not from our camp operation alone.
  - it would allow time for major renovations (i.e. rebuilding, winterizing, etc.) to be done.



- our Beccies property is over-run by 'locals' and wandering youth. It should become a 'hostel in the north', or better, to sell it now and use the proceeds to equip our hikes and trips.

The above is stated all too briefly but the basic idea and implications are clear. A smaller and less costly operation could function next year along the lines that we have the expertise in (i.e. hikes and trips).

The remaining sections of this report will look at various areas of Camp '71 and all recommendations will be based on the proposed model suggested above.

PROPOSED CAMP EXPERIENCEAGE

8				
9				
10	DAY			
11	CAMP	HIKE & TRIP CAMP		
12				
13		(new site)		
14			PARK DE LA VERENDRYE	
15	DAY			TRAINING CAMP
16	CAMP			
17	STAFF			
18				STAFF
19				
20				
21				SENIOR STAFF

Program operated on Kamp Kanawana site can be for all ages.



PRE-CAMP TRAINING:

Our pre-camp training sessions this year, although they contained similarities to previous years, had several distinctive points about them.

The primary focus of this year's pre-camp was skill (both people and camp) learning sessions and fun.

The skill sessions were improved by with a high percentage of old staff returning to Kanawana this year which allowed us greater depth and resources to begin camp with and by the addition of the Park trippers who added their own personal insights into tripping with a few 'helpful hints'.

As we are basically a hike and trip camp we also sent the staff out on a three day camping session (in the past it usually comprised of an overnight hike). The two senior sections (male and female) ventured separately on the Preston-Simon trip. This trip proved to be an excellent one for the campers during camp as it contained 'a little bit of everything' - large and small lakes, trekking, fast water, etc. in it. The junior sections camped nightly at various sites on our property. They used their time to get-to-know each other and to clean up the sites and swimming areas in preparation for the campers.

The fun aspect was included on the premise that if we can't be loose and have fun, then how do we expect the campers to enjoy themselves. It was a dry-run at evening campfire programs, skit nights and entertaining ourselves with the talent we found among us. This proved to be the solid foundation for many enjoyable sessions with the campers during the evening and the staff continued to gather all during the summer in their 'lounge' for an evening's fellowship.

There were several visitors or resource people who took part in the pre-camp training. These people were warmly welcomed to camp but there was a feeling of intrusion by these people coming to camp. The staff feel that they are on the front lines with the campers and they know what the camp (or campers) need and what is lacking. They feel that they are stunted in their attempts to make their views known. There is an urgent need to bring the staff together in an informal session to dialogue about the camp - as the staff see it, and for them to understand the tremendous man-hours and involvement of groups such as the Hike and Trip and Waterfront Committees have given behind the scenes. Unless this is acted upon there will be a growing split between the lay and staff groups - which will do nothing but hamper what we all are attempting to do.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. If we are to be a hike and trip camp then our entire pre-camp session should be re-focused to concentrate in this area.
2. Our trippers should be out at least one month in advance to pre-camp to investigate new trips (and hiking areas) and see what changes have occurred in the old ones.
3. Pre-camp training to remain at a 2 week period. It would be broken down as follows:
  - 4 days - clean up camping sites and repair equipment, etc.
  - 4 days - skill sessions
  - 1 day - lay-staff sessions over present and future developments
  - 4 days - canoe trip and/or hike
  - 1 day - free time
4. Pre-camp should extend all year round with reunions (both staff and camper), training sessions, skill (i.e. lifesaving) sessions, etc. held in Montreal.



ORGANIZATION:

The camp is a large organization (over 60 staff, most of whom might be hired up to one month before camp begins). I feel that it is too large for what we really need to do.

This summer there were 13 people supervised by the Director and 4 by the Business Manager. With our staff changing their positions each year (i.e. counsellor to section director) they need extra supervision in order to provide the support structure necessary for them to function adequately. Time at camp does not always allow for this, particularly if the Director wants to see programs in action and is available for the 'emergency' situations that occur.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. By focusing on hiking and tripping we would eliminate a large number of staff (and reduce budget expenses) to bring the camp into a more personal focus.
2. If the campers prepared their own meals while at base camp (possibly 3 days in total) then we would save a sizable budget figure. If the camper is expected to be knowledgeable about camping he should begin immediately upon his arrival by cooking his own food - he has to do it on a trip.

PROMOTION:

1971 Promotion started last December with Christmas cards being mailed to all campers.

Drench mailings totaling 17,881 brochures and application forms were sent to the following locations:

Beaconsfield)	4547
Beaurepaire )	
Candiac	1059
Brossard	2810
Lachine West	2741
Montreal West)	2537
N.D.G. )	
Hudson )	2050
Hudson Heights)	
R.R. #1 )	
Como	
Ste Anne de Bellevue)	2137
Senneville )	
Ste Marie Road )	
Baie d'Urfe )	

The following areas were also covered totaling 2,292:

YMCA Branches	600
Business Men's Club	582
'69 & '70 campers	740
Downtown Boys	151
Metro Board Members	89
Northeastern U.S. Ys	130

The West Island Branch assisted us in mailing to the following areas:

Cedar Park Heights	466
Lakeside Heights	578
Valois	455
Central Pointe Claire	304
Lakeside	397



PROMOTION (CONT'D)

A camper and staff reunion was held on Sunday, May 16th, at the Westmount Branch. Approximately 100 campers and some parents really seemed to enjoy this get together.

The "Travelogue" section of the Montreal Star edited by Ted Parks on May 1st gave honourable mention to all YMCA camps including a very good write-up on Kamp Kanawana.

We placed advertisements in daily, as well as weekly newspapers both on and off the island. The Camping supplement of the Montreal Star ran a special feature on Kanawana.

A telephone survey was also conducted to all '70 campers and parents to give us an idea of possible registration for '71.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Consider the usage of:
  - Birthday cards to campers
  - TV coverage
  - Radio talk shows
  - Speaking engagements
2. Assistance for P.R. (and also financial support) could be secured through the development of a double 'K', double 'A' group (Kamp Kanawana Alumni Association).
3. The Montreal office should have a distinct 'camp' flavour (i.e. pictures, paddles, etc.) about it. It should be separate from other areas and encourage parents and campers to drop in and talk about camp - summer camp, winter camp and usage.

REGISTRATION:

<u>Camper Weeks</u>		<u>No. of Campers</u>	
<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
743	504	284	197

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. A smaller camp operation would require fewer campers. It would provide a personal, high quality program, however, this would produce, very shortly, a waiting list of campers. It would also be easier to meet the new budget figure and allow the time previously spent on P.R. to be re-focused on equipment, program, etc.



PROGRAM - GENERAL:

Our program this year was very successful. Again the emphasis must be placed on the staff. Pre-planning can only go so far - it is, in the long run, up to the staff to make it work.

Our only difficulty was one of communication. With a staff the size of ours it is easy to have situations of miscommunication but over the summer we seemed to iron out most of the bugs.

Whatever happens in camp is the direct responsibility of the Camp Director. He should be the only one who makes the decisions as to what will happen at camp and who and what is needed. Unless he is knowledgeable about everything that is going on and/or it has his approval there will be a communication breakdown and eventually the camp will be affected by it.

WATERFRONT

Our staff did an excellent job this year. The swimming and boating instructions were of good quality and many campers smiled happily in the dining hall as they received their certificates. There was some confusion on the part of both staff and campers as they adjusted to the new boating cards. These tests should be re-investigated before it is finalized. There was also a shortage of equipment (i.e. canoes and life jackets) as many trips began to go out. At some points toward the end of camp junior campers could not venture forth due to the lack of life jackets.

I would also question our swimming program and its focus. We operate a similar program to the Montreal YMCA but cannot and should not be expected to make swimmers out of our campers. We are affected by weather, trips and hikes, other programs (i.e. riding, all-camp, etc.) and cabin programs. The swim times can be kept consistent by the swimmers - availability cannot. Therefore, I feel that we should encourage all potential campers to attend classes in Montreal before coming to camp. In that regard we need focus on boating skills and can get trips away more safely and quickly.

HIKE & TRIP:

The availability of our Hike and Trip Director (for the third year), the resources (due to first period cancellation of Les Voyageurs de la Verendrye) of the Park trippers and an excellent, hard working packer made this area function extremely well. That is until the last three weeks when our Director had to join the two Park trippers at La Verendrye and due to operating on a tight staff operation we were slightly disorganized toward the end of camp.

Our canoes are divided into three areas - Park, hike and trip, and waterfront. Each area (except the former) has an inadequate supply of canoes in good repair. Our majority of canoes should be for tripping (a set of 3 for each tent group to use and maintain). Our equipment also needs to be re-examined and re-stocked.

A donation of food from McGill University added to our quality of dehydrated foods but this will not be available for too long into the future.

Longer trips or exchanges with other Provinces (or the U.S.A.) should be considered. Most of our present trips are at least 50 miles away from camp and it would make sense to look to this area as use for a new base camp.

Camper transportation should also be considered. Several vehicles and canoe trailers would make the tripping operation more successful as would a camp car for emergency (or supplies) trips.

Several of our better trips are on the verge of becoming 'cottage' trips as housing developments continue to move further north. Negotiations for buying of small areas of land for camp sites might prove a worthwhile venture.

Our Beccies property has become over-run with the 'locals' using it for weekend picnics and old staff and campers using it for a place to 'crash'. It has become too well known. To place a guard on the property would be poor local P.R. and only a gesture.

HIKE & TRIP (CONT'D)

Last year's report suggested usage of it for youth travelers as they travelled through Canada. A resource person on the site working or available to them would be one suggestion. This could be funded through a special resource and provide the youth with a much needed area to feel 'welcome' at. The other alternative is to sell the property and use the results to purchase land further north.

Meanwhile back at camp, I feel that our trips should be extended to 8-12 days duration. This would provide the time to enjoy the fellowship of others on the trip, to properly at first-hand learn the skills of tripping and to appreciate the 'unspoiled' country we still have.

We should also design a procedure for late or lost trips 'off' our property. We are geared for any emergency on our site but not off of it.

RIDING:

The program went extremely well this summer with trail riding, lunch rides and overnight trips. Special stalls were built at two locations on camp property so the horses could be used for overnight rides. Most of the campers received sufficient riding time and many 'horsemanship' awards were presented to proud campers.

Actual grooming, preparing and understanding of horses was included in the riding program.

Again communications proved to be a problem here due to (a) the distance of the stables to the camp and (b) the uncertainty as to who was on staff or helping at the stables. Several campers volunteered much of their time to assist at the stables because of their interest in the horses.

The stables themselves were placed in excellent condition due to the work of Julien Tasse during pre-camp.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the riding program be discontinued as a part of Kanawana program. It may be reconsidered as one particular program separate from all others for those whose interests move in that direction. It is an expensive (too expensive) program for Kanawana at the present time.



OTHER PROGRAMS:

Several tents became interested in nature and involved their learning to include: survival hikes, building bridges and trails, sounding the lake, making candles, etc.

Archery was enjoyed but its distance from the camp did not keep it in the forefront with other nearby visible activities.

Soccer and volleyball games seemed more prevalent this year than in the past - the latter was usually coed when senior campers played.

All-camp programs showed ingenuity and a high spirit of involvement and fun. There were usually two special programs per period. These programs were planned by a variety of the staff and this added to the interest and involvement by all.

Visitors days saw a planned water show by campers and staff. Races, demonstrations, etc. were included. It was held to approximately one hour and all the visitors enjoyed themselves.

TRAINING CAMP:

Our training camp program was redesigned this year and thanks to its Director, it was a fantastic success. Basically we did away with the Counsellor-in-Training and Junior Counsellor concept and called all those involved Junior Counsellors. Then we opened the program to those who inquired - and seemed like good prospects for our camp - for a one month period. To those that we knew previously or who seemed to be outstanding candidates, we offered them a two month program.

The program for the first month included:

First 2 weeks	5 days - skill sessions
	5 " - canoe trip (hike)
	1 " - free time
	1 " - working in section
	1 " - preparing with section staff
Second 2 weeks	Working in sections with same status as counsellors (except no swimming on hikes unless another counsellor was on hand).

TRAINING CAMP (CONT'D)

The second month program was the reverse of the above.

This outline proved to be successful except the second month was reversed to be the same as the first month due to low registration for the third period and a sudden increase in the fourth period.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Training camp pay full fees.
2. The outline for '71 could basically be continued and improved upon in consideration of:
  - (a) the re-focus of Kamp Kanawana '72
  - (b) keeping it as a part of Kamp Kanawana or operating it as a leadership training program (i.e. for day camp and resident camp staff).

HEALTH & SAFETY:

Our nurse did an excellent job at camp this summer. Her responsibilities were increased this year due to the fact that we did not have a doctor in residence.

Our two main problems in this area were:

- (a) transportation of (sometimes 8 at one time) campers to the doctor in St. Sauveur.
- (b) having to decide whether to wait to take a camper to St. Sauveur during visiting hours or to, instead, transport him/her to St. Jerome or Montreal.

There was also a large amount of time spent by our staff waiting for the campers to be seen.

After many futile attempts to secure permission to install a washing machine at camp we finally placed a second-hand wringer machine for the benefit of the staff. Until that time the staff had to travel to St. Sauveur to do their laundry. There should also be a commercial dryer installed at camp to handle wet sleeping bags, etc.

Our ball fields, play areas, etc. are still very dangerous with unlevel ground and large boulders protruding at irregular intervals. During some free time during pre-camp training the staff took it upon themselves to rake and attempt to level several areas for safety's sake. These areas should receive attention before next year or not be used due to their unsafe nature.



CAMPERS:

The campers this summer were excited, enthusiastic and ready to have fun. They participated in all the activities and learned many skills (i.e. riding, canoeing, campcraft, candle making, etc.) while at camp.

They also mixed as they desired (coed) and made many new friends. There were no major problems with campers this summer (i.e. drugs or coed programs).

A number of the younger campers remained 'homesick' for long periods of time as there seemed to be an over abundance of parents calling to ask about their camper. The latter, upon further discussion, showed more parental insecurity than camper concern. We had a good number of parents 'dropping in' on us as they were in the neighbourhood to see how things were going.

The camp began, at one point, to look like a drop-in center for almost everyone (Beccies had more visitors dropping in than we did however).

Our junior campers are a little bit too junior yet for the type of camp (i.e. hike and trip) we are operating. We should raise our age level to at least 10 years and offer another program (i.e. a traveling day camp or a family camp) for those under 10 years.

PLANT:Rentals

There are an increasing number of rentals at Kanawana each year. As the camp itself lasts only a short period of time, yet is expected to subsidize a full year's operation, it would seem to be for the best interest of Kanawana to re-examine our rental policies. Rentals should prove adequate enough to more than realize the financial loss occurred by the camp operation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. All rentals be made by the Director.
2. A fee structure be set, including scope for the size of the group.
3. A written document of what can be made available to rental groups (i.e. rules, equipment, etc.) and what is 'out of bounds'.
4. A staff resource person should be on site for all rentals.
5. The sale of Beccies property to help financially support plant rebuilding at Kamp Kanawana.

PLANT:Property

Our property still needs a rest. Late winter and early rentals makes it very difficult to put the camp into its necessary state of readiness. Our property and buildings could also be winterized to add to its year round usage. If we experimented with the property in new programs we could do so on a rotation usage of the sections. This would allow at least one year for each section to receive major work on it.

Various plant repairs, etc. are documented in the Directors' reports from 1967 to 1970.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. A long range plan of usage of the property should be identified first, then the focus of rebuilding (or repair) could start.
2. A capital campaign is really necessary to see the camp brought up to the level it should be.
3. A plan by which new equipment (i.e. canoes) would be purchased each year on a rotation basis.

FOOD SERVICES:

Our food and services were excellent again this year. We had delicious programs ranging from a cook-out (all camp) to our closing banquet. The Chef felt a real part of camp and he and his staff assisted with the smooth functioning of our operations (i.e. hike and trip supplies) at every opportunity. The Chef also visited some of our hikes and showed them how to bake beans in the sand.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The new site for our hikes and trips would see all campers preparing their own meals. As they have to do so when on a trip, why not start immediately.
2. If experimental programs were to be operated from Kamp Kanawana a cafeteria style operation should be considered.

COMMENTS - GENERAL:

1. Our season is long for the staff. Next year we should consider a three day break between the second and third period or shorter periods (i.e. 12-13 days) with all staff receiving the same day off. Thus the number of rover counsellors would be reduced.
2. I have followed a policy of all staff being 18 years of age or over. Senior staff are 21 years of age and over.

This area has raised some question as to the possible hiring of younger (counsellor) staff and should receive the attention of the Board for a statement to our policy in this matter. My own recommendation is that we retain our present policy.



LES VOYAGEURS DE LA VERENDRYE:

The Park program had a good season, although the first period was cancelled due to low registration.

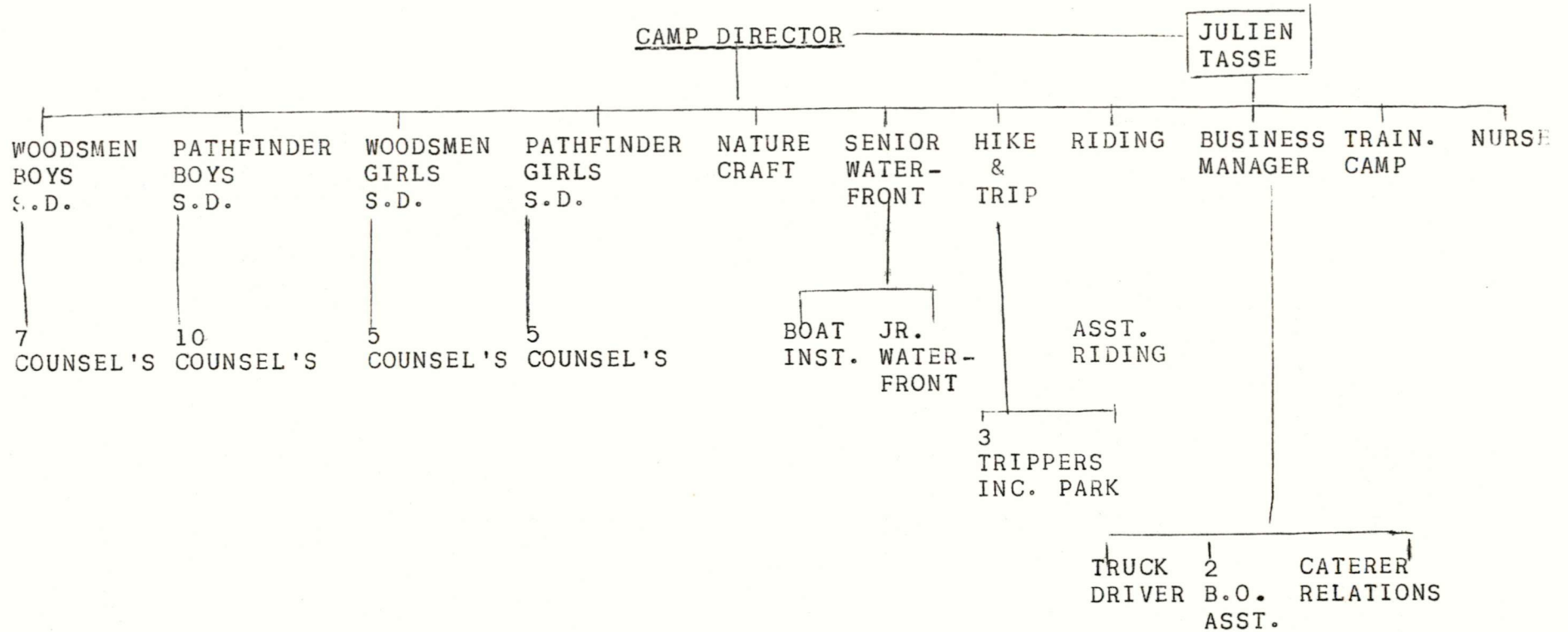
The concerns about the Park program are:

- (a) a lack of knowledge about the applicants' swimming and boating skills prior to arriving at camp.
- (b) (on my part) a lack of communication with the various groups to ensure that all is well on the trips.

The trips were shorter this year (2 and 3 weeks) and I feel that they should be extended back to their original 3 and 4 weeks. The co-ordinator should also be re-established at the Park to provide supplies and periodic checks on all the trips.

The Park seems to receive the least amount of P.R. (not even a separate brochure) and yet it is the best experience we offer. Special P.R. should be given to this area before we are forced to cancel more sessions due to low registration.

ORGANIZATION CHART 1971



At this point, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those that I have worked with over the past two years.

Any operation such as ours cannot function properly without two key ingredients. The first is the pre-planning, thought, and insights into what should be. The second is the actual, direct contact with the campers as to what can be.

I can also not forget to mention the untiring and endless help that Mrs. Hall gives to all Board, staff, campers, parents and most of all the Director.

The staff and Board make Kanawana - the campers make it go.

My sincere thanks,

James H. Turner,  
Camp Director,  
Kamp Kanawana '71.